

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8 and 11-16 in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A seat storing structure for a vehicle comprising:

a seat including a seat cushion provided on a floor in a passenger compartment of the vehicle, a seat back supported by a rear portion of said seat cushion, and a headrest supported by said seat back, and constructed so as to selectively attain a seating state where said seat back is erected in the vicinity of the rear portion of said seat cushion or folded state where said seat back is folded down forward onto said seat cushion;

a pivotally supporting mechanism provided between said seat and the floor for supporting said seat and pivoting the seat rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state; and

a recess formed in the floor behind said seat for storing said seat such that a surface of said seat cushion is substantial alignment with the floor after said seat has been pivoted rearward with said seat maintaining the folded state,

wherein said headrest is supported by said seat back so as to shift between a first state where said headrest is located at the top of said seat back with said seat in the seating state, and a second state where said headrest is located on a back surface of said seat back and within paths of pivotal motions of said seat back and seat cushions with said seat maintaining the folded state, and

wherein a silencer is provided beneath the floor, the silencer having an elliptic-cylindrical shape and disposed in front of the recess such that its longitudinal direction is

oriented substantially in the width direction of the vehicle and the major axis of an ellipsoid as its cross-section is oriented substantially in the vertical direction of the vehicle.

10. (Original) The seat storing structure for a vehicle as defined in Claim 9, wherein the floor is slanted such that its rear portion is situated higher than its front portion.

11.-16. (Canceled)